

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
BRIEF REMARKS TO THE MEDIA
ANKARA, TURKEY
JULY 21, 1994

SECRETARY PERRY: First of all, let me say I'm delighted to be here in Ankara. Turkey for many decades has been a good friend and a close ally of the United States. I'm here primarily to consult with the government officials in Turkey on the current crisis in Bosnia. I've had a very good meeting with the President as well as the Foreign Minister and the Minister of National Defense and I have received the assessment of the situation in Bosnia as well as advice as to how the United States should proceed.

I've also taken advantage of the time here to deepen and strengthen our bilateral relationship and we've discussed a number of bilateral issues. All of them in a very positive and constructive way.

I'd be happy to take a few questions if you'd like.

Q. Mr. Secretary, will you be able to go to Sarajevo tomorrow since the ground fighting seems to have intensified?

SECRETARY PERRY: We had planned on this trip to go to Sarajevo tomorrow. The information we now have is the Sarajevo airport is closed indefinitely and so we are assuming that we will have to make different plans and we are in the process of making that now. We won't have a final decision until later tonight.

Q. Mr. Secretary: Does your government share the decision of the Congress, or certain (inaudible) of the Congress, to put certain conditions on the military aid which you have given to Turkey or have you made any commitment here in Ankara that your government should make some efforts to change those conditions?

SECRETARY PERRY: Our administration has argued vigorously against the language which is being proposed by the House of Representatives for inclusion in the Security Assistance Bill. We think it is entirely inappropriate.

Q. Have you made any proposals to reconcile Greece and Turkey ... (inaudible)?

SECRETARY PERRY: Greece and Turkey are both friends of the United States and we stand ready to assist in any of the differences between the two countries to the extent we can be useful. But Greece and Turkey are both sovereign nations and we are not in a position to dictate to either one of them what they should do on important policy issues.

Q. The Minister of Defense, Mehmet Golhan, has expressed Turkey's desire to ...any decisions on the (inaudible) agreement to the (inaudible) as soon as possible. What is your position on that? Do you think that that would be possible?

SECRETARY PERRY: I have nothing I can offer you on that one at this time -- to elaborate the discussions that are already underway. We did not discuss that today.

Q. One more question on Bosnia. Mr. Secretary, Turkey maintains that military force should be used if necessary to solve this questions otherwise the possibilities of defense should be given to the Bosnians. After the fact that Serbians now have refused the plan, what is your position? Do you share those Turkish proposals?

SECRETARY PERRY: The Serb response to the peace plan presented to them by the contact group is under discussion now by the contact group. Our ambassador to that, Ambassador Redman, has described the Serbian response as "a disappointment." He has further said that the contact group itself will not make a final decision. They will refer this to the foreign ministers of the nations of the contact group and that they should meet before the end of the month to decide what action to be taken. The actions that would be considered would be actions that would put additional pressure on the Serbs to increase those plans and that those additional pressures would consider increased level of sanctions, it could involve the lifting of the arms embargo or a variety of ways that would increase pressure -- those would be considered by the contact group and the final decision on it would be made by the foreign ministers who will meet in a week or two.

Thank you very much.

END